

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 8666

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, NI
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH NIGERIAN EXTAFF COMMISSIONER GARBA

REF: (A) STATE 181978 (B) LAGOS 8506 (C) LAGOS 8520 (D) LAGOS 8521
(E) LAGOS 6799

1. WE THINK IT MOST LIKELY GARBA PRIMARILY WILL WANT DISCUSS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS RE BROADER RANGE U.S. POLICIES ON AFRICA (RATHER THAN STRICTLY BILATERAL MATTERS), ESPECIALLY U.S. INITIATIVES ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN KENYA-UGANDA DUSTUP AND POSSIBLY STEP-UP IN U.S. ARMING OF SELECTED AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

2. INDIGENIZATION. IN VIEW HIS MEETING WITH DIPLOMATS JULY 23 (LAGOS 8539, GARBA MIGHT ALSO PRESENT DEFENSE RECENT FMG INDIGENIZATION ACTIONS AND MAKE PITCH FOR CONTINUED U.S. INVESTMENT, FOLLOWING IS OUR CURRENT ASSESSMENT ON SUBJECT WHICH AF MAY WISH DRAW UPON FOR PREPARING BRIEFING MATERILS FOR SECRETARY.

A. BACKGROUND. WE KNOW OF NO AMERICAN COMMERCIAL INTERESTS AFFECTED BY 100 PERCENT INDIGENIZATION BUT MOST OR ALL OF PRESENT AND POTENTIAL FOREIGN INVESTORS ARE SUBJECT TO EITHER 60 PERCENT OR 40 PERCENT. THE CONSENSUS OF BOTH FOREIGN AND NIGERIAN ECONOMISTS SEEMS TO BE THAT INDIGENIZATION POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT WILL STOP NEW FOREIGN INVESTMENT DEAD UNTIL CLARIFIED AND, EVEN IF SPELLED OUT IN TERMS ATTRACTIVE TO INVESTORS, WILL KEEP FOREIGN INVESTMENT LOWER THAN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN. WE UNDERSTAND THERE MAY BE SOME REDUCTION IN NIGERIA'S DEVELOPMENT
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PLAN BECAUSE OF THE ANTICIPATED EFFECT OF INDIGENIZATION ON

INVESTMENT. SINCE THE NEW POLICY HAS NOT YET BEEN APPLIED TO SPECIFIC COMPANIES, AMERICAN FIRMS PURSUING POLICY OF WATCHFUL WAITING. MOST APPEAR WILLING TO ACCEPT, BUT BANKS INCREASINGLY RELUCTANTM

2. SECRETARY MIGHT COMMENT THAT WE ARE PLEASED WITH INDIVIDUAL AMERICAN COMMERCIAL SUCCESSES IN NIGERIA AND THAT WE WISH TO SEE CONTINUED EXPANSION OF EXPORTS, TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING. WE HOPE THAT NIGERIAN POLICIES WILL BE CONDUCIVE TO THIS AND TO INVESTMENT, ESPECIALLY IN GROWTH SECTORS, E.G., OIL, AGRICULTURE, CONSTRUCTION.

3. EMBASSY KNOWS OF NO OTHER SOLELY BI-LATERAL MATTERS GARBA MAY WISH TO RAISE, BUT WE HAVE SEVERAL TO WHICH, DEPENDING ON TIME AND GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF CONVERSATION, WE HOPE SECRETARY WOULD REFER IN ORDER DEMONSTRATE OUR CONCERN OVER WORKING RELATIONSHIPS HERE.

A. DETENTION OF AND SLOW CONSULAR ACCESS TO AMERICAN CITIZENS.

B. CONTINUED FMG HOLDING OF PROUTY PASSPORT.

C. TRAVEL BAN

AF MAY WISH GIVE THOUGHT TO DRAFTING AIDE MEMOIRE DOCUMENTING THESE ISSUES. OBJECT WOULD BE TO INSURE THAT PRECISE INFORMATION GETS INTO GARBA'S HANDS, RELIEVING SECRETARY OF NEED TO REHEARSE DETAILS OF SPECIFIC CASES.

4. MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: KOREA AND PUERTO RICO. ALTHOUGH NIGERIA NOW APPEARS FIRMLY WEDDED TO HARD-LINE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT POSITION ON KOREA, WE SUGGEST SECRETARY ESIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS HIS JULY 22 PROPOSAL WITH GARBA AND ATTEMPT ENLIST HIS SUPPORT FOR NIGERIAN MODERATION IN UPCOMING NAM SESSIONS. SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH COMMISSIONER WILL BE ONLY OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE FOR U.S. TO MAKE SUCH HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATION ON KOREA PRIOR TO DEPARTURE GARBA AND HIS DELEGATION FOR COLOMBO. IN MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR JUNE 11, GARBA SEEMED SUPPORTIVE IN PRINCIPLE OUR STANCE ON PUERTO RICO BUT SECRETARY MIGHT WISH REITEATE BRIEFLY IMPORTANCE
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WE PLACE ON KEEPING THIS INTERNAL AFFAIR OUT OF INTERNATIONAL DEBATING FORA.
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